

## Cherry Bark Tortrix

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The cherry bark tortrix (CBT), *Enarmonia formosana*, is an introduced caterpillar pest in western North America and is found in coastal areas from British Columbia south to parts of Oregon. This pest can attack any Rosaceous host, but is most commonly found on various species and varieties of cherry, plum, and apple. In Europe, the pest is described as preferentially attacking older trees, but in North America it attacks all age classes. This pest can kill trees outright through girdling or can leave them susceptible to secondary disease and insect problems. More commonly, heavy infestations around the graft union lead to large branch dieback above the graft.

### Appearance and Life Cycle

The caterpillar is 8-11 mm in length with a gray to flesh colored body and a yellowish-brown head. First instar larvae feed on bark and outer sapwood, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> instars tunnel and feed between the bark and cambium. The larvae also overwinter under the bark. Adult wingspan ranges from 15-18 mm, and the wings have characteristic yellow, orange, and white markings (Figure 1). Eggs are laid near wounds where newly hatched larvae begin to feed. There is one generation each year.

### Damage

Damage is caused as the larvae feed and bore beneath the bark. Infested trees are more susceptible to other insect and disease problems as well as being more prone to freezing injury. High populations will girdle the host tree. Symptoms of this pest include cracked bark which may also be exuding gummosis (a gum-like resin often mixed with frass and silk) as well as swelling, cankers and frass tubes (Figure 2). A general decline of the crown, often limited to the side that

Figure 1: Adult moth



Figure 2: Frass tube



is heavily attacked, may be observed. Attacks are normally initiated at wounds, graft or branch unions, poor pruning cuts, or other natural bark cracks.

### Control

Effective treatment applications to control this pest are available. Product application timing is critical and should be timed while larvae are tending frass tubes which normally occurs from late-September through early October. Please contact your Bartlett Arborist Representative for details.

